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## HOUSE BILL No. 1343

AM134305 has been incorporated into January 12, 2026 printing.

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**Synopsis:** Military and veteran matters.

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January 12, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1343

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning public safety.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 1-1-4-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025,  
2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) The following definitions apply to the  
4 construction of all Indiana statutes, unless the construction is plainly  
5 repugnant to the intent of the general assembly or of the context of the  
6 statute:  
7 (1) "Adult", "of full age", and "person in his majority" mean a  
8 person at least eighteen (18) years of age.  
9 (2) "Attorney" includes a counselor or other person authorized  
10 to appear and represent a party in an action or special  
11 proceeding.  
12 (3) "Autism" means a neurological condition as described in the  
13 most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of  
14 Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association.  
15 (4) "Bond" does not necessarily imply a seal.

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- 1 (5) "Clerk" means the clerk of the court or a person authorized  
2 to perform the clerk's duties.
- 3 (6) "Health record", "hospital record", or "medical record" means  
4 written or printed information possessed by a provider (as  
5 defined in IC 16-18-2-295) concerning any diagnosis, treatment,  
6 or prognosis of the patient, unless otherwise defined. Except as  
7 otherwise provided, the terms include mental health records and  
8 drug and alcohol abuse records.
- 9 (7) "Highway" includes county bridges and state and county  
10 roads, unless otherwise expressly provided.
- 11 (8) "Infant" or "minor" means a person less than eighteen (18)  
12 years of age.
- 13 (9) "Inhabitant" may be construed to mean a resident in any  
14 place.
- 15 (10) "Judgment" means all final orders, decrees, and  
16 determinations in an action and all orders upon which executions  
17 may issue.
- 18 (11) "Land", "real estate", and "real property" include lands,  
19 tenements, and hereditaments.
- 20 (12) "Mentally incompetent" means of unsound mind.
- 21 (13) "Money demands on contract", when used in reference to an  
22 action, means an action arising out of contract when the relief  
23 demanded is a recovery of money.
- 24 (14) "Month" means a calendar month, unless otherwise  
25 expressed.
- 26 (15) "Noncode statute" means a statute that is not codified as  
27 part of the Indiana Code.
- 28 (16) "Oath" includes "affirmation", and "to swear" includes to  
29 "affirm".
- 30 (17) "Person" extends to bodies politic and corporate.
- 31 (18) "Personal property" includes goods, chattels, evidences of  
32 debt, and things in action.
- 33 (19) "Population" has the meaning set forth in IC 1-1-3.5-3.
- 34 (20) "Preceding" and "following", referring to sections in  
35 statutes, mean the sections next preceding or next following that  
36 in which the words occur, unless some other section is  
37 designated.
- 38 (21) "Property" includes personal and real property.
- 39 (22) "Sheriff" means the sheriff of the county or another person  
40 authorized to perform sheriff's duties.
- 41 (23) "State", applied to any one (1) of the United States, includes  
42 the District of Columbia and the commonwealths, possessions,

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states in free association with the United States, and the territories. "United States" includes the District of Columbia and the commonwealths, possessions, states in free association with the United States, and the territories.

(24) "Under legal disabilities" includes persons less than eighteen (18) years of age, mentally incompetent, or out of the United States.

(25) "Verified", when applied to pleadings, means supported by oath or affirmation in writing.

(26) "Will" includes a testament and codicil.

(27) "Without relief" in any judgment, contract, execution, or other instrument of writing or record, means without the benefit of valuation laws.

(28) "Written" and "in writing" include printing, lithographing, or other mode of representing words and letters. If the written signature of a person is required, the terms mean the proper handwriting of the person or the person's mark.

(29) "Year" means a calendar year, unless otherwise expressed.

(30) The definitions in IC 35-31.5 apply to all statutes relating to penal offenses.

(b) This subsection applies to the definitions of "Hoosier veteran" and "veteran" when used in reference to state programs for veterans. The term "veteran" includes "Hoosier veteran", and applies to the construction of all Indiana statutes, unless the construction is expressly excluded by the terms of the statute, is plainly repugnant to the intent of the general assembly or of the context of the statute, or is inconsistent with federal law. "Hoosier veteran" means an individual who meets the following criteria:

(1) The individual is a resident of Indiana.

(2) The individual served in an active or reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana National Guard.

(3) The individual completed any required military occupational specialty training and was not discharged or separated from the armed forces or the Indiana National Guard under conditions ~~other than conditions~~ set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~. **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2).**

The definitions set forth in this subsection may not be construed to affect a Hoosier veteran's eligibility for any state program that is based upon a particular aspect of the Hoosier veteran's service such as a disability or a wartime service requirement.

SECTION 2. IC 4-13-16.5-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025,

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SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(b) "Commission" refers to the governor's commission on supplier diversity established under section 2 of this chapter.

(c) "Commissioner" refers to the commissioner of the department.

(d) "Contract" means any contract awarded by a state agency or, as set forth in section 2(g)(11) of this chapter, awarded by a recipient of state grant funds, for construction projects or the procurement of goods or services, including professional services. For purposes of this subsection, "goods or services" may not include the following when determining the total value of contracts for state agencies:

(1) Utilities.

(2) Health care services (as defined in IC 27-8-11-1(c)).

(3) Rent paid for real property or payments constituting the price of an interest in real property as a result of a real estate transaction.

(e) "Contractor" means a person or entity that:

(1) contracts with a state agency; or

(2) as set forth in section 2(g)(11) of this chapter:

(A) is a recipient of state grant funds; and

(B) enters into a contract:

(i) with a person or entity other than a state agency; and

(ii) that is paid for in whole or in part with the state grant funds.

(f) "Department" refers to the Indiana department of administration established by IC 4-13-1-2.

(g) "Deputy commissioner" refers to the deputy commissioner for supplier diversity of the department.

(h) "Minority business enterprise" or "minority business" means an individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or joint venture of any kind that is owned and controlled by one (1) or more persons who are:

(1) United States citizens; and

(2) members of a minority group or a qualified minority nonprofit corporation.

(i) "NGB-22" means the National Guard Report of Separation form or its predecessor or successor form.

(j) "Qualified minority or women's nonprofit corporation" means a corporation that:

(1) is exempt from federal income taxation under Section



501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(2) is headquartered in Indiana;

(3) has been in continuous existence for at least five (5) years;

(4) has a board of directors that has been in compliance with all other requirements of this chapter for at least five (5) years;

(5) is chartered for the benefit of the minority community or women; and

(6) provides a service that will not impede competition among minority business enterprises or women's business enterprises at the time a nonprofit applies for certification as a minority business enterprise or a women's business enterprise.

(k) "Owned and controlled" means:

(1) if the business is a qualified minority nonprofit corporation, a majority of the board of directors are minority;

(2) if the business is a qualified women's nonprofit corporation, a majority of the members of the board of directors are women;

or

(3) if the business is a business other than a qualified minority or women's nonprofit corporation, having:

(A) ownership of at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the enterprise, including corporate stock of a corporation;

(B) control over the management and active in the day-to-day operations of the business; and

(C) an interest in the capital, assets, and profits and losses of the business proportionate to the percentage of ownership.

(l) "Minority group" means:

(1) African Americans;

(2) Native Americans;

(3) Hispanic Americans; and

(4) Asian Americans.

(m) "Separate body corporate and politic" refers to an entity established by the general assembly as a body corporate and politic.

(n) "State agency" refers to any authority, board, branch, commission, committee, department, division, or other instrumentality of the executive, including the administrative, department of state government.

(o) "Veteran" means an individual who:

(1) has previously:

(A) served on active duty in any branch of the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, in the national guard, or in the Indiana National Guard; and

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- (B) received a discharge from service under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~; **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**; or
- (2) is currently serving in:
- (A) any branch of the armed forces of the United States or their reserves;
  - (B) the national guard; or
  - (C) the Indiana National Guard.
- (p) "Veteran owned small business" refers to a small business that:
- (1) is independently owned and operated;
  - (2) is not dominant in its field of operation; and
  - (3) satisfies the criteria to be a veteran owned small business concern as specified in section 1.5 of this chapter.
- (q) "Women's business enterprise" means a business that is one (1) of the following:
- (1) A sole proprietorship owned and controlled by a woman.
  - (2) A partnership or joint venture owned and controlled by women in which:
    - (A) at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the ownership is held by women; and
    - (B) the management and daily business operations are controlled by at least one (1) of the women who owns the business.
  - (3) A corporation or other entity:
    - (A) whose management and daily business operations are controlled by at least one (1) of the women who owns the business; and
    - (B) that is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned by women, or if stock is issued, at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the stock is owned by at least one (1) of the women.
  - (4) A qualified women's nonprofit corporation.
- SECTION 3. IC 4-15-2.2-32, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 32. (a) Former members of the armed forces of the United States who meet both of the following requirements shall receive a preference for appointment or reemployment in the state classified service:
- (1) The veteran served ~~on active duty~~ in any branch of the armed forces.
  - (2) The veteran was not discharged or separated from the armed forces under conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~; **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**.

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(b) When:

(1) preemployment interviews of external candidates are conducted; and

(2) the qualified applicant pool includes veterans; veterans must be included in the group offered interviews.

(c) In computing seniority for purposes of a personnel reduction in state civil service, the computation must include the length of time the employee spent ~~on active duty~~ in the armed forces of the United States.

SECTION 4. IC 5-9-3-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. Persons discharged from the armed forces of the United States under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~, **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**, by reason of disability resulting from wounds or sickness incurred in the line of duty, shall be preferred for appointment to civil offices, provided they are found to possess the capacity necessary for the proper discharge of such offices.

SECTION 5. IC 5-9-3-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) Political subdivisions of the state of Indiana shall allow preference points to eligible armed forces veterans who are being examined for full time employment. Preference points awarded to such veterans on each such examination shall be ten percent (10%) of the total number of points which may be obtained thereon.

(b) To be eligible to receive preference points, under this chapter, a person must have:

(1) served ~~on active duty~~ in the armed forces of the United States for at least one hundred eighty-one (181) days; and

(2) received a discharge from service under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~, **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**.

(c) The provisions of this chapter are in lieu of any policy of a political subdivision allowing employment preference for veterans in effect before July 1, 1975.

SECTION 6. IC 5-10.3-7-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) A member who:

(1) enters the United States armed services;

(2) leaves the member's contributions in the fund;

(3) except as provided in subsection (c), resumes service with the member's employer within one hundred twenty (120) days after the member's unconditional discharge; and

(4) would be entitled to service credit for military service under

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the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.) if the member had resumed service with the member's employer within ninety (90) days after discharge;

is entitled to service credit for the armed service.

(b) A state employee who left employment before January 1, 1946, or an employee of a political subdivision who left employment before the participation date, to enter the United States armed services is entitled to service credit for the armed service if the member:

(1) except as provided in subsection (c), resumes service with the employer within one hundred twenty (120) days after the member's unconditional discharge; and

(2) would be entitled to service credit for military service under the applicable requirements of federal law in effect at the time of reemployment if the employee had resumed service with the employee's employer within ninety (90) days after discharge.

(c) The board shall extend the one hundred twenty (120) day reemployment requirement contained in subsection (a)(3) or (b)(1) if the board determines that an illness, an injury, or a disability related to the member's military service prevented the member from resuming employment within one hundred twenty (120) days after the member's discharge from military service. However, the board may not extend the deadline beyond thirty (30) months after the member's discharge.

(d) If a member retires and the board subsequently determines that the member is entitled to additional service credit due to the extension of a deadline under subsection (c), the board shall recompute the member's benefit. However, the additional service credit may be used only in the computation of benefits to be paid after the date of the board's determination, and the member is not entitled to a recomputation of benefits received before the date of the board's determination.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a member is entitled to service credit and benefits in the amount and to the extent required by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.).

(f) Subject to the provisions of this section, an active member may purchase and claim not more than two (2) years of service credit for the member's service on active duty in the armed services if the member meets the following conditions:

(1) The member has at least one (1) year of credited service in the fund.

(2) The member serves on active duty in the armed services of

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the United States for at least six (6) months.

(3) The member receives a discharge from the armed services under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~. **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**.

(4) Before the member retires, the member makes contributions to the fund as follows:

(A) Contributions that are equal to the product of the following:

(i) The member's salary at the time the member actually makes a contribution for the service credit.

(ii) A rate, determined by the actuary of the fund, that is based on the age of the member at the time the member actually makes a contribution for service credit and computed to result in a contribution amount that approximates the actuarial present value of the benefit attributable to the service credit purchased.

(iii) The number of years of service credit the member intends to purchase.

(B) Contributions for any accrued interest, at a rate determined by the actuary of the fund, for the period from the member's initial membership in the fund to the date payment is made by the member.

However, a member is entitled to purchase service credit under this subsection only to the extent that service credit is not granted for that time under another provision of this section. At least ten (10) years of service in Indiana is required before a member may receive a benefit based on service credits purchased under this section. A member who terminates employment before satisfying the eligibility requirements necessary to receive a monthly allowance or receives a monthly allowance for the same service from another tax supported public employee retirement plan other than under the federal Social Security Act may withdraw the purchase amount plus accumulated interest after submitting a properly completed application for a refund to the fund.

(g) The following apply to the purchase of service credit under subsection (f):

(1) The board may allow a member to make periodic payments of the contributions required for the purchase of the service credit. The board shall determine the length of the period during which the payments must be made.

(2) The board may deny an application for the purchase of service credit if the purchase would exceed the limitations under Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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(3) A member may not claim the service credit for purposes of determining eligibility or computing benefits unless the member has made all payments required for the purchase of the service credit.

SECTION 7. IC 5-10.4-4-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 10, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) This subsection applies to a member who retires before July 1, 1980. A member who had completed four (4) years of approved college teacher education before voluntary or involuntary induction into the military services is entitled to credit for that service as if the member had begun teaching before the induction. A member who serves in military service is considered a teacher and is entitled to the benefits of the fund if before or during the leave of absence the member pays into the fund the member's contributions. Time served by a member in military service for the duration of the hostilities or for the length of active service in the hostilities and the necessary demobilization time after the hostilities is not subject to the one-seventh rule set forth in section 7 of this chapter.

(b) This subsection applies to a member who retires after June 30, 1980. A member who completed four (4) years of approved college teacher education before voluntary or involuntary induction into military service is entitled to credit for the member's active military service as if the member had begun teaching before the induction. A member who serves in military service is considered a teacher and is entitled to the benefits of the fund if the following conditions are met:

(1) The member has received a discharge from military service under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~ **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (g), the member returns to active teaching service not later than twenty-four (24) months after the completion of active military service.

(3) The member has at least ten (10) years of in-state service credit.

The time served by a member in military service for the duration of the hostilities or for the length of active service in the hostilities and the necessary demobilization time after the hostilities is not subject to the one-seventh rule set forth in section 7 of this chapter. However, not more than six (6) years of military service credit may be granted under this subsection.

(c) This subsection applies to a member who retires after May 1, 1989. A member who had begun but had not completed four (4) years of approved college teacher education before voluntary or involuntary

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induction into the military services is entitled to service credit in an amount equal to the duration of the member's active military service if the following conditions are met:

(1) The member has received a discharge from military service under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~. **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2).**

(2) Except as provided in subsection (g), the member returns to a four (4) year approved college teacher training program not later than twenty-four (24) months after the completion of active military service and subsequently completes that program.

(3) The member has at least ten (10) years of in-state service credit.

The time served by a member in active military service for the length of active service in the hostilities and the necessary demobilization is not subject to the one-seventh rule set forth in section 7 of this chapter. However, not more than six (6) years of military service credit may be granted under this subsection.

(d) This subsection applies to a member who retires after May 1, 1991, and who is employed at a state educational institution. A member who had begun but had not completed baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate education before voluntary or involuntary induction into military service is entitled to the member's active military service credit for the member's active military service in an amount equal to the duration of the member's military service if the following conditions are met:

(1) The member received a discharge from military service under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~. **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2).**

(2) Except as provided in subsection (g), the member returns to baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate education not later than twenty-four (24) months after completion of active military service and subsequently completes that education.

(3) The member has at least ten (10) years of in-state service credit.

The time served by a member in active military service for the length of active service in the hostilities and the necessary demobilization is not subject to the one-seventh rule set forth in section 7 of this chapter. However, not more than six (6) years of military service credit may be granted under this subsection.

(e) For purposes of this section, a member returns to active teaching service on the earlier of:

(1) the date on which the member signs a teacher's contract; or



1 (2) the date on which the member is first employed in a position  
2 covered by this article.

3 (f) For purposes of this section, a member returns to:

4 (1) a teacher training program; or

5 (2) baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate education;

6 on the date the member registers for or enrolls in classes that the  
7 member attends.

8 (g) The board shall extend the twenty-four (24) month deadline  
9 contained in subsection (b)(2), (c)(2), or (d)(2) if the board determines  
10 that an illness, an injury, or a disability related to the member's military  
11 service prevented the member from returning to active teaching service  
12 or to a teacher education program not later than twenty-four (24)  
13 months after the member's discharge from military service. However,  
14 the board may not extend the deadline beyond forty-eight (48) months  
15 after the member's discharge.

16 (h) If a member retires and the board subsequently determines that  
17 the member is entitled to additional service credit due to the extension  
18 of a deadline under subsection (g), the board shall recompute the  
19 member's benefit. However, the additional service credit may be used  
20 only in the computation of benefits to be paid after the date of the  
21 board's determination, and the member is not entitled to a  
22 recomputation of benefits received before the date of the board's  
23 determination.

24 (i) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a member is  
25 entitled to military service credit and benefits in the amount and to the  
26 extent required by the federal Uniformed Services Employment and  
27 Reemployment Rights Act (38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.), including all later  
28 amendments.

29 (j) Subject to this section, an active member may purchase and  
30 claim not more than two (2) years of service credit for the member's  
31 service on active duty in the armed services if the member meets the  
32 following conditions:

33 (1) The member has at least one (1) year of credited service in  
34 the fund.

35 (2) The member serves on active duty in the armed services of  
36 the United States for at least six (6) months.

37 (3) The member receives a discharge from the armed services  
38 under conditions other than conditions set forth in  
39 ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~. **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**.

40 (4) Before the member retires, the member makes contributions  
41 to the fund as follows:

42 (A) Contributions that are equal to the product of:

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- 1 (i) the member's salary at the time the member actually  
 2 makes a contribution for the service credit;  
 3 (ii) a rate, determined by the actuary of the fund, that  
 4 is based on the age of the member at the time the  
 5 member actually makes a contribution for service  
 6 credit and computed to result in a contribution amount  
 7 that approximates the actuarial present value of the  
 8 benefit attributable to the service credit purchased; and  
 9 (iii) the number of years of service credit the member  
 10 intends to purchase.

- 11 (B) Contributions for any accrued interest, at a rate  
 12 determined by the actuary of the fund, for the period from  
 13 the member's initial membership in the fund to the date  
 14 payment is made by the member.

15 However, a member is entitled to purchase service credit under this  
 16 subsection only to the extent that service credit is not granted for that  
 17 time under another provision of this section. At least ten (10) years of  
 18 service in Indiana is required before a member may receive a benefit  
 19 based on service credits purchased under this section. A member who  
 20 terminates employment before satisfying the eligibility requirements  
 21 necessary to receive a monthly allowance or receives a monthly  
 22 allowance for the same service from another tax supported public  
 23 employee retirement plan other than under the federal Social Security  
 24 Act may withdraw the purchase amount plus accumulated interest after  
 25 submitting a properly completed application for a refund to the fund.

- 26 (k) The following apply to the purchase of service credit under  
 27 subsection (j):

- 28 (1) The board may allow a member to make periodic payments  
 29 of the contributions required for the purchase of the service  
 30 credit. The board shall determine the length of the period during  
 31 which the payments must be made.

- 32 (2) The board may deny an application for the purchase of  
 33 service credit if the purchase would exceed the limitations under  
 34 Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.

- 35 (3) A member may not claim the service credit for purposes of  
 36 determining eligibility or computing benefits unless the member  
 37 has made all payments required for the purchase of the service  
 38 credit.

- 39 (l) This subsection applies to a member who retires after June 30,  
 40 2006. A member may not receive credit under this section for service  
 41 for which the member receives service credit under the terms of a  
 42 military or another governmental retirement plan.

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SECTION 8. IC 6-8.1-9-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.43-2021, SECTION 32, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) Every individual (other than a nonresident) who files an individual income tax return and who is entitled to a refund from the department of state revenue because of the overpayment of income tax for a taxable year may designate on the individual's annual state income tax return that either a specific amount or all of the refund to which the individual is entitled shall be paid over to one (1) or more of the funds described in subsection (c). If the refund to which the individual is entitled is less than the total amount designated to be paid over to one (1) or more of the funds described in subsection (c), all of the refund to which the individual is entitled shall be paid over to the designated funds, but in an amount or amounts reduced proportionately for each designated fund. If an individual designates all of the refund to which the individual is entitled to be paid over to one (1) or more of the funds described in subsection (c) without designating specific amounts, the refund to which the individual is entitled shall be paid over to each fund described in subsection (c) in an amount equal to the refund divided by the number of funds described in subsection (c), rounded to the lowest cent, with any part of the refund remaining due to the effects of rounding to be deposited in the nongame fund.

(b) Every husband and wife (other than nonresidents) who file a joint income tax return and who are entitled to a refund from the department of state revenue because of the overpayment of income tax for a taxable year may designate on their annual state income tax return that either a specific amount or all of the refund to which they are entitled shall be paid over to one (1) or more of the funds described in subsection (c). If the refund to which a husband and wife are entitled is less than the total amount designated to be paid over to one (1) or more of the funds described in subsection (c), all of the refund to which the husband and wife are entitled shall be paid over to the designated funds, but in an amount or amounts reduced proportionately for each designated fund. If a husband and wife designate all of the refund to which the husband and wife are entitled to be paid over to one (1) or more of the funds described in subsection (c) without designating specific amounts, the refund to which the husband and wife are entitled shall be paid over to each fund described in subsection (c) in an amount equal to the refund divided by the number of funds described in subsection (c), rounded to the lowest cent, with any part of the refund remaining due to the effects of rounding to be deposited in the nongame fund.

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(c) Designations under subsection (a) or (b) may be directed only to the following funds:

(1) The nongame fund.

(2) The state general fund for exclusive use in funding public education for kindergarten through grade 12.

(3) The military family relief fund.

(d) The instructions for the preparation of individual income tax returns shall contain a description of the purposes of the following:

(1) The nongame and endangered species program. The description of this program shall be written in cooperation with the department of natural resources.

(2) The funding of public education for kindergarten through grade 12. The description of this purpose shall be written in cooperation with the secretary of education.

(3) The funding for financial assistance to ~~qualified~~ service members ~~(as defined in IC 10-17-12-7.5)~~ **described in IC 10-17-12-8.1(1) and IC 10-17-12-8.1(2), who are Indiana residents**, and their families. The description of this purpose shall be written in cooperation with the Indiana department of veterans' affairs.

(e) The department shall interpret a designation on a return under subsection (a) or (b) that is illegible or otherwise not reasonably discernible to the department as if the designation had not been made.

SECTION 9. IC 9-18.5-7-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 19, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) An Indiana resident who is a current or former member of the Army or Air National Guard may apply for and receive one (1) or more license plates under this chapter.

(b) An individual applying for a National Guard license plate under this chapter as a current member of the National Guard must demonstrate the individual's status as a current member of the Army or Air National Guard by presenting the following with the individual's application:

(1) A current United States armed forces identification card.

(2) A letter signed by the individual's commanding officer identifying the individual as a current active member.

(c) An individual applying for a National Guard license plate under this chapter as a former member of the National Guard must present with the individual's application a copy of the individual's:

(1) National Guard Bureau Form 22 or 22A showing the individual received a discharge under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~; **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**;

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or

(2) National Guard Bureau Form 23D or 23E showing the individual as retired;  
as proof of the individual's status as a former member of the Army or Air National Guard.

SECTION 10. IC 10-16-1-5.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 5.6. "Civilian cyber corps" means the Indiana civilian cyber corps program established by IC 10-16-22.**

SECTION 11. IC 10-16-1-5.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 5.7. "Civilian cyber corps adviser" means an individual who serves as a nondeployable member in the Indiana civilian cyber corps program for the purpose of providing support and technical expertise for civilian cyber corps volunteers.**

SECTION 12. IC 10-16-1-5.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 5.8. "Civilian cyber corps volunteer" means an individual who has entered into an agreement with the adjutant general to serve as a deployable member in the Indiana civilian cyber corps program.**

SECTION 13. IC 10-16-1-8.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 8.5. "Cybersecurity client" means a:**

- (1) state agency (as defined in IC 4-1-10-2);
- (2) political subdivision (as defined in IC 36-1-2-13);
- (3) state educational institution (as defined in IC 21-7-13-32);
- (4) critical infrastructure facility (as defined in IC 35-46-10-1); or
- (5) critical infrastructure utility (as defined in IC 35-46-10-1);

**that has requested and is using the rapid response assistance of the Indiana civilian cyber corps program under the direction of the adjutant general.**

SECTION 14. IC 10-16-1-8.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 8.6. "Cybersecurity incident" means an incident as defined by 44 U.S.C. 3552(b)(2).**

SECTION 15. IC 10-16-2-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.15-2010,

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SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. The adjutant general shall appoint ~~four (4)~~ **assistant adjutants general additional general officers** to serve at the will and pleasure of the adjutant general as follows:

(1) **Excluding the adjutant general, there are six (6) general officer authorizations for the Indiana Army National Guard and two (2) general authorizations for the Indiana Air National Guard under this section.**

(2) **Included in the general officer authorizations described in subdivision (1), one (1) general officer position shall be established as the Director, Joint Staff, Indiana Joint Forces Headquarters. The position may be filled by either an Army or Air National Guard member.**

(3) **To be eligible for appointment to a general officer under subdivision (1), an individual must meet the following requirements:**

(A) **The individual must be a federally recognized officer who has attained the rank of colonel or higher.**

(B) **The individual must be eligible for appointment in the Indiana National Guard.**

(1) ~~One (1) assistant adjutant general from the Indiana Army National Guard to be commander of the Indiana Army National Guard forces, except the forces described in subdivision (3). A person is not eligible for appointment as assistant adjutant general unless the person is a member of the Indiana Army National Guard and has attained the rank of major or above. The person must be a federally recognized officer and may hold the rank of major general or other rank authorized by the table of organization for the Army National Guard.~~

(2) ~~One (1) assistant adjutant general from the Indiana Army National Guard to be chief of staff to the adjutant general for all the Indiana Army National Guard forces, except those forces described in subdivision (4). This assistant adjutant general shall perform duties assigned by the adjutant general and is responsible for all administrative and operational functions of the Indiana Army National Guard, except those related to forces described in subdivision (4). A person is not eligible for appointment as assistant adjutant general unless the person is a member of the Indiana Army National Guard with at least six (6) years service in the Indiana Army National Guard and has attained the rank of major or above. The person must be a federally recognized officer and may hold the rank of brigadier~~

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general or other rank authorized by the table of organization for the Army National Guard:

(3) One (1) assistant adjutant general from the Indiana Air National Guard to be chief of staff to the adjutant general for all the Indiana Air National Guard forces. This assistant adjutant general shall perform duties assigned by the adjutant general and is responsible for administrative and operational functions of the Indiana Air National Guard. A person is not eligible for appointment as air forces chief of staff unless the person is a member of the Indiana Air National Guard with at least six (6) years service as a commissioned officer and has attained the rank of major or above. The person must be a federally recognized officer and may hold the rank of brigadier general or other rank authorized by the tables of organization for the Air National Guard:

(4) One (1) assistant adjutant general from the Indiana Army National Guard to be chief of staff to the adjutant general for all Indiana Army National Guard forces assigned to the Camp Atterbury Muscatatuck Urban Training Center. This assistant adjutant general shall perform duties assigned by the adjutant general and is responsible for all administrative and operational functions of Indiana Army National Guard forces assigned to the Camp Atterbury Muscatatuck Urban Training Center. A person is not eligible for appointment as assistant adjutant general unless the person is a member of the Indiana Army National Guard with at least six (6) years service in the Indiana Army National Guard and has attained the rank of major or above. The person must be a federally recognized officer and may hold the rank of brigadier general or other rank authorized by the table of organization for the Army National Guard:

SECTION 16. IC 10-16-3-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.38-2011, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. The state armory board established by section 1 of this chapter may contribute funds in support of the following authorized duties and responsibilities of the adjutant general:

- (1) The ~~military department~~ of the Indiana ceremonial unit.
- (2) The Indiana guard reserve.
- (3) The annual report of the adjutant general's department.
- (4) The medical treatment, pensions, and funeral expenses of officers and soldiers wounded, disabled, or killed while in the active service of the state.
- (5) Expenditures for public relations and the promotion of

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1 morale within the adjutant general's department. ~~that are not paid~~  
 2 ~~by the United States Department of Defense.~~

3 (6) Recruitment and retention expenditures of the adjutant  
 4 general's department. ~~that are not paid by the United States~~  
 5 ~~Department of Defense.~~

6 (7) The publication of the armed forces law of Indiana in  
 7 accordance with IC 10-16-2-9(d).

8 **(8) Armory modernization and care for armories.**

9 SECTION 17. IC 10-16-3-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.38-2011,  
 10 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 11 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) The state armory board may **utilize any and**  
 12 **all appropriate methods to:**

13 (1) lease real estate from:

14 (A) the federal, the state, or a local government; ~~or~~

15 (B) a federal, state, or local agency; or

16 **(C) a private entity or individual; or**

17 (2) purchase real estate throughout the state;

18 where necessary to provide armories or other military purposes.

19 (b) The state armory board shall lease or purchase real estate in the  
 20 name and for the use of the state. The state armory board may erect on  
 21 the real estate an armory or another appropriate structure to be used for  
 22 meetings, rendezvous, and drill purposes by the following  
 23 organizations:

24 (1) A company.

25 (2) A battery.

26 (3) A troop.

27 (4) A battalion.

28 (5) A regiment.

29 (6) A division organization.

30 (7) An air ~~squadron~~ **wing**.

31 (8) A related group.

32 (9) An organization authorized by the state board.

33 The ordnance stores, quartermaster stores, and other property issued to  
 34 an organization described in this subsection and occupying the armory  
 35 shall be stored in the armory or other appropriate structure.

36 (c) The state armory board shall arrange for the occupancy and use  
 37 of the armories under the direction and responsibility of the senior  
 38 officer in command of an organization described in subsection (b).

39 (d) An armory may not be erected on land that is leased for less  
 40 than ~~fifty (50)~~ **twenty-five (25)** years.

41 (e) The Indiana wing of the civil air patrol and its subordinate  
 42 units may use armory facilities without charge when the officer

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responsible for the armory determines the use would not interfere with operational training requirements of the military forces concerned.

SECTION 18. IC 10-16-3-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.38-2011, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. The state armory board shall constitute a board for the general management, care, and custody of the armories. The state armory board may adopt ~~rules~~ **policies or procedures** for:

- (1) the management and government of the armories;
- (2) the guidance of the organizations occupying the armories; and
- (3) any other purpose consistent with this chapter.

SECTION 19. IC 10-16-3-8 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 8. (a) ~~This section applies if a contract for the procurement of property by the state armory board or a local armory board is awarded under this chapter by acceptance of bids, proposals, or quotations.~~

(b) ~~A bid, proposal, or quotation submitted by a trust (as defined in IC 30-4-1-1(a)) must identify each:~~

- (1) ~~beneficiary of the trust; and~~
- (2) ~~settlor empowered to revoke or modify the trust.~~

SECTION 20. IC 10-16-3-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.38-2011, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) The state armory board may receive from any source donations of real or personal property or contributions of money to aid in the support and assistance of:

- (1) the armed forces of Indiana; and
- (2) the armed forces of Indiana called or inducted into federal service.

Property received under this subsection shall be held as other property for the use of the state.

(b) Counties, cities, and municipalities may make donations and contributions under subsection (a).

(c) This subsection applies to ~~real or personal~~ **any** property:

- (1) donated under subsection (a); ~~and~~
- (2) upon which the state of Indiana has not erected structures; **and**
- (3) **if a donation agreement has not been executed between the state armory and the donor of the property.**

The state armory board may determine that ~~real~~ **any** property donated under subsection (a) is no longer usable or cannot be used by the military department. The state armory board may certify its determination to the adjutant general. The adjutant general may



reconvey ~~the real~~ any property to the donor or to another entity or individual that the adjutant general considers appropriate.

SECTION 21. IC 10-16-3-10 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. All expenses incurred in the operation of state armories shall be paid out of:

- (1) the rentals;
- (2) the income;
- (3) the earnings;
- (4) any other receipts; and
- (5) any other appropriation provided by law;

to pay the expenses incurred in the operation of the armories **or other matters consistent with this chapter.**

SECTION 22. IC 10-16-3-12 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. (a) If the state armory board receives from the ~~governor~~ **adjutant general** information of the disbandment of the organization of the armed forces of Indiana occupying and using an armory, the state armory board shall take charge of the armory.

(b) The state armory board shall sell the armory for the highest price at public or private sale after publication of the sale for a period of ten (10) days and return the proceeds into the state treasury.

SECTION 23. IC 10-16-3-13, AS AMENDED BY P.L.38-2011, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13. (a) The state armory board may:

(1) sell, lease, convey, or otherwise dispose of any ~~real~~ property belonging to the state and being under the charge and in the custody and possession of the state armory board if, in the judgment of the state armory board:

(+) (A) the ~~real~~ property can no longer be used for the purpose for which it was acquired; and

(-) (B) the conveyance provides a substantial public or military benefit; **or**

(2) **elect to transfer the property to the Indiana department of administration under IC 4-20.5-7 or IC 5-22-21.**

(b) The sale shall be made at public or private sale, after appropriate publication, for the highest price to be obtained for the same. If the state armory board takes bids in the sale of ~~real~~ property, the board shall require a bid submitted by a trust (as defined in IC 30-4-1-1(a)) to identify all of the following:

- (1) Each beneficiary of the trust.
- (2) Each settlor empowered to revoke or modify the trust.
- (c) All money derived from the sale, conveyance, or other

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disposition of any ~~real~~ property shall be paid into the state treasury, but may be used for the purchase of other ~~real~~ property for armory purposes.

SECTION 24. IC 10-16-3-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.38-2011, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) **Except as provided in subsection (c)**, if the state armory board sells any real property, the value of the property shall be determined by **an appraiser** ~~three (3) disinterested appraisers~~ appointed by the state armory board with the approval of the **adjutant general**. ~~governor~~.

(b) Real property may not be sold for less than the appraised value of the real property **unless the sale is approved by the adjutant general**. If the real property cannot be sold at its appraised value, it may be reappraised.

(c) **If the adjutant general determines that the value of the real property is likely to be less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), the appraisal described in subsection (a) is not required to sell the real property.**

(d) **The state armory board may transfer state real property to a person in exchange for property of like value that is transferred by the person to the state. The state armory board must establish that properties exchanged are of like value through appraisals or other means approved by the adjutant general.**

~~(e)~~ (e) Real property may not be sold **or transferred** unless:

(1) the ~~governor~~ **adjutant general** approves the sale **or transfer**; and

(2) the ~~attorney general~~ **state armory board's legal counsel** states in writing that all the conditions necessary to the legal and valid sale **or transfer** of the property have been fully complied with.

SECTION 25. IC 10-16-3-15, AS AMENDED BY P.L.9-2024, SECTION 316, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. (a) The purchaser of real property sold under this chapter or to whom real property is conveyed or otherwise disposed of under this chapter shall pay the purchase money as agreed upon ~~and certified by~~ **to** the state armory board ~~to the treasurer of state~~ for the use and benefit of the state armory board. ~~The purchaser shall take the receipt of the treasurer of state.~~

(b) The state ~~comptroller~~ **armory board** shall execute a deed of conveyance to the purchaser **or the exchanging party** after the purchaser **or the exchanging party** presents a form that is legally sufficient to memorialize and consummate the transaction and that

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1 is suitable for recording in the county upon which the property is  
 2 located. presents the following documents to the state comptroller:

3 (1) The receipt of the treasurer of state:

4 (2) A certified resolution approved by the state armory board  
 5 setting forth the terms and conditions of the sale, conveyance, or  
 6 other disposition.

7 The deed of conveyance shall be signed by the ~~governor~~ **president of**  
 8 **the state armory board** and officially attested by the **adjutant**  
 9 **general.** ~~state comptroller with the seal of the state.~~

10 SECTION 26. IC 10-16-3-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.9-2024,  
 11 SECTION 317, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 12 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 16. (a) The state armory board shall  
 13 report annually of the proceedings incident to the location and  
 14 management of the armories and a detailed account of disbursements.

15 (b) The report shall be filed ~~in the office of the state comptroller~~  
 16 **with the state board of accounts** and a copy furnished to the adjutant  
 17 general for publication in the annual report of the adjutant general's  
 18 department.

19 SECTION 27. IC 10-16-3-17 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 20 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 17. The **adjutant**  
 21 **general's office state examiner, personally or through the deputy**  
 22 **examiners, field examiners, or private examiners,** shall make a full and  
 23 complete examination and report of all transactions of all individuals,  
 24 persons, trustees, boards, banks, firms, corporations, and others  
 25 engaged in the acquisition of sites for and the construction of state  
 26 armories, including examination of the following:

27 (1) The plans and specifications of armories.

28 (2) Construction work performed or being performed.

29 (3) The records of bonds issued and redeemed or proposed to be  
 30 issued.

31 (4) The records of all lease contracts for building or maintaining  
 32 armories.

33 (5) The records of receipts and earnings of all armories, except  
 34 those earnings and receipts arising from shows, benefits, and  
 35 other similar activities engaged in by members of the armories  
 36 and other volunteers for the use and benefit of the members.

37 (6) All money handled by the board or boards, by trustees of  
 38 state armories, by the state armory board or local armory boards,  
 39 or by the adjutant general, including all appropriations made for  
 40 armories by the general assembly.

41 All powers conferred upon the state examiner, deputy examiner, field  
 42 examiner, private examiner, and the attorney general under IC 5-11-6

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by petition are conferred upon these officers, examiners, and the department without any petition. All the powers given these officers, examiners, and the department under any other statute may be used for the purpose of carrying out this chapter.

SECTION 28. IC 10-16-3-18 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 18. (a) The state **armory board examiner**, with the approval of the governor, may employ expert engineering and architectural services when necessary to assist the state **armory board examiner**, deputy examiner, field examiners, or private examiners in making inspections and examinations under this chapter.

(b) The state examiner, with the approval of the governor, shall fix and determine the amount to be paid for the expert service. Field examiners of the state board of accounts, when employed in performing the services provided for in this chapter, are entitled to receive the per diem provided by IC 4-10-11-2 and IC 4-10-11-2.1 for field examiners and all necessary expenses incurred in carrying out their duties as provided for in this chapter.

SECTION 29. IC 10-16-6-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) A person may not be commissioned as an officer of the Indiana national guard unless the person:

- (1) is temperate and of good moral character; and
- (2) has successfully passed tests as to physical, mental, and professional fitness as may be prescribed by the laws and regulations applicable to the federally recognized national guard.

(b) In the selection and appointment of commissioned officers, preference shall be given to:

- (1) a person with prior active military service;
- (2) an enlisted person;
- (3) a member of the **army or** air national guard; and
- (4) a graduate of a school teaching military science.

SECTION 30. IC 10-16-6-12, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 21, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. (a) A commissioned officer:

- (1) who serves in the Indiana national guard for at least five (5) years; or
- (2) who becomes permanently disabled from performing the officer's duties, irrespective of length of service;

may, upon retirement from the military service under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~, **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**, whether by resignation or otherwise, and upon application to the



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adjutant general, be carried upon a roll to be established and maintained in the office of the adjutant general. The roll shall be designated the Indiana national guard retired list.

(b) The commissioned officer may wear, on occasion of ceremony, the uniform of the highest rank held by the officer.

(c) An officer carried on the Indiana national guard retired list, if qualified, is eligible for detail or appointment on the general staff or the staff of any commander when not physically disqualified for military duty. However, if an officer carried on the Indiana national guard retired list is appointed to a staff position as described in this section, the officer shall be recommissioned in the rank to which the officer has been appointed. The officer shall hold this rank during the time of the staff appointment unless the officer is promoted to a higher rank.

(d) If the officer retires for a second time from active service, the officer shall be entered on the Indiana national guard retired list with the officer's highest rank.

(e) An officer whose name appears on the national guard retired list is not entitled to receive any military pay or emolument from the state during the time the officer remains on the national guard retired list unless the officer is specifically assigned to duty on orders from the governor. If the officer is assigned to duty on orders from the governor, the officer is entitled only to the military pay and allowance provided by law for officers of the rank to which appointed.

SECTION 31. IC 10-16-18-1 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 1. A contract may not be entered into by the adjutant general or the armory board that provides for the use of Stout Field, Indianapolis, for purposes of commercial flying by transportation companies.~~

SECTION 32. IC 10-16-21 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. (Indiana Cyber Civilian Corps Program Advisory Board).

SECTION 33. IC 10-16-22 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

**Chapter 22. Indiana Civilian Cyber Corps Program**

**Sec. 1. (a) The Indiana civilian cyber corps program is established as a subdivision of the Indiana guard reserve organized and maintained under IC 10-16-8 with the primary mission of increasing cybersecurity awareness, capability, and capacity throughout Indiana. The secondary mission of the civilian cyber corps is to provide rapid response capabilities for cybersecurity clients that would otherwise be unable to appropriately:**

**(1) respond to;**

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1 (2) mitigate; or  
 2 (3) recover from;  
 3 a cybersecurity incident.

4 (b) The adjutant general shall administer the civilian cyber  
 5 corps program.

6 (c) The following state agencies shall designate a liaison to the  
 7 civilian cyber corps:

8 (1) The office of technology established by IC 4-13.1-2-1.

9 (2) The department of homeland security established by  
 10 IC 10-19-2-1.

11 (3) The state police department.

12 Sec. 2. (a) The adjutant general may invite and appoint an  
 13 individual who has expertise in addressing cybersecurity incidents  
 14 to serve as a civilian cyber corps volunteer or civilian cyber corps  
 15 adviser in a manner prescribed by the adjutant general.

16 (b) The adjutant general shall require an individual who  
 17 accepts an invitation to serve as a civilian cyber corps volunteer or  
 18 civilian cyber corps adviser under subsection (a) to submit to a  
 19 criminal history check.

20 Sec. 3. (a) A civilian cyber corps volunteer or civilian cyber  
 21 corps adviser is not an agent, employee, or independent contractor  
 22 of the state of Indiana for any purpose and has no authority to bind  
 23 the state of Indiana with regard to third parties.

24 (b) The state of Indiana is not liable to a civilian cyber corps  
 25 volunteer or civilian cyber corps adviser for personal injury or  
 26 property damage suffered by the civilian cyber corps volunteer or  
 27 civilian cyber corps adviser through participation in the civilian  
 28 cyber corps.

29 Sec. 4. (a) The adjutant general, the military department, and  
 30 the state of Indiana are immune from tort liability for acts or  
 31 omissions by a civilian cyber corps volunteer or civilian cyber  
 32 corps adviser as provided in this chapter.

33 (b) A civilian cyber corps volunteer or civilian cyber corps  
 34 adviser is subject to the same civil and criminal immunity  
 35 protections as a member of the Indiana National Guard under  
 36 IC 10-16-7-7(b) and IC 10-16-7-7(d) for any act done by the civilian  
 37 cyber corps volunteer or civilian cyber corps adviser in the  
 38 discharge of the civilian cyber corps volunteer's or civilian cyber  
 39 corps adviser's official duty under this chapter.

40 Sec. 5. The civilian cyber corps shall conduct:

41 (1) an annual meeting that meets at the call of the adjutant  
 42 general; and



(2) critical incident training or exercises at the call of the adjutant general.

Sec. 6. (a) A cybersecurity client may request cybersecurity training by the civilian cyber corps by submitting a request to the civilian cyber corps in a manner prescribed by the adjutant general.

(b) To initiate the deployment of a civilian cyber corps volunteer to provide training to a cybersecurity client, the adjutant general shall indicate in writing that the civilian cyber corps volunteer is authorized to provide training to the cybersecurity client.

(c) The adjutant general may enter into a contract with a cybersecurity client as a condition of providing training to the cybersecurity client through the civilian cyber corps.

(d) Acceptance by a cybersecurity client of training from a civilian cyber corps volunteer under this chapter must be made by the cybersecurity client in writing.

(e) The adjutant general shall maintain a written document initiating the deployment of a civilian cyber corps volunteer to provide training to a cybersecurity client for:

- (1) six (6) years after the end of the deployment; or
- (2) the length of time required under the adjutant general's record retention policies;

whichever is longer.

Sec. 7. (a) A cybersecurity client:

(1) shall notify the state police department upon the occurrence of a cybersecurity incident before requesting response capabilities of the civilian cyber corps; and

(2) may, upon recognition of a potential security vulnerability that could lead to a cybersecurity incident, request the adjutant general to deploy one (1) or more civilian cyber corps volunteers to provide rapid response assistance to the cybersecurity client.

(b) The adjutant general may, at the adjutant general's discretion, initiate:

- (1) the deployment of a civilian cyber corps volunteer; or
- (2) the nondeployment of a civilian cyber corps adviser;

upon recognition of a potential security vulnerability that could lead to a cybersecurity incident and at the request of the cybersecurity client.

(c) To initiate the deployment of a civilian cyber corps volunteer to provide assistance to a cybersecurity client, the

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adjutant general shall indicate in writing that the civilian cyber corps volunteer is authorized to provide assistance to the cybersecurity client. A single written document may initiate the deployment of more than one (1) civilian cyber corps volunteer.

(d) The adjutant general may enter into a contract with a cybersecurity client as a condition of providing assistance to the cybersecurity client through the civilian cyber corps.

(e) Acceptance by a cybersecurity client of assistance from a civilian cyber corps volunteer under this chapter shall be made by the cybersecurity client in writing.

(f) The adjutant general shall maintain a written document initiating the deployment of a civilian cyber corps volunteer to provide assistance to a cybersecurity client for:

- (1) six (6) years after the end of the deployment; or
- (2) the length of time required under the adjutant general's record retention policies;

whichever is longer.

(g) At the discretion of the adjutant general, the deployment of a civilian cyber corps volunteer may be extended in writing in the same manner as the initial deployment.

Sec. 8. (a) The adjutant general shall publish guidelines for the operation of the civilian cyber corps program. At a minimum, the published guidelines must include the following:

(1) An explanation of the standards the adjutant general will use to determine whether an individual may serve as a civilian cyber corps volunteer or civilian cyber corps adviser and an explanation of the process by which an individual may become a civilian cyber corps volunteer or civilian cyber corps adviser.

(2) An explanation of the requirements the adjutant general will impose when a cybersecurity client requests and receives the assistance of the civilian cyber corps.

(3) An explanation of the process by which the civilian cyber corps will select and prioritize cybersecurity clients requesting assistance.

(b) The adjutant general may provide, or contract for the provision of, appropriate training to members of the civilian cyber corps.

(c) The military department may provide compensation for actual and necessary travel and subsistence expenses incurred by a civilian cyber corps volunteer on a deployment.

(d) The adjutant general may establish a fee schedule for



1 assistance provided by the civilian cyber corps.

2 **Sec. 9. (a) Information that is voluntarily given to the civilian**  
 3 **cyber corps or obtained under this chapter that would identify or**  
 4 **provide as a means of identifying a person or cybersecurity client,**  
 5 **and the disclosure of which may:**

6 (1) cause the person or cybersecurity client to become a  
 7 victim of a cybersecurity incident; or

8 (2) disclose a person's or cybersecurity client's cybersecurity  
 9 plans or cybersecurity related practices, procedures,  
 10 methods, results, organizational information system  
 11 infrastructure, hardware, or software;

12 **is confidential and exempt from disclosure under IC 5-14-3-4.**

13 **(b) The work product of a civilian cyber corps volunteer or**  
 14 **civilian cyber corps adviser under this chapter is confidential and**  
 15 **exempt from disclosure under IC 5-14-3-4.**

16 SECTION 34. IC 10-17-1-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025,  
 17 SECTION 23, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 18 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) Subject to subsection (h), a county executive  
 19 shall employ a service officer and may employ service officer assistants  
 20 to serve the veterans of the county. However, with the approval of the  
 21 commission, two (2) or more counties may enter into an agreement to  
 22 employ a service officer if each county demonstrates to the commission  
 23 that the workload does not justify each county employing a separate  
 24 county service officer.

25 (b) Subject to subsection (h), the mayor of a city may employ a  
 26 service officer and may employ service officer assistants to serve the  
 27 veterans of the city.

28 (c) The service officer shall:

29 (1) be:

30 (A) a veteran who received a discharge from military  
 31 service under conditions other than conditions set forth in  
 32 ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~ **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)** and who has at least  
 33 six (6) months of active service in the armed forces of the  
 34 United States; or

35 (B) a service officer assistant with not less than two (2)  
 36 years of experience; and

37 (2) be a resident of Indiana or become a resident of Indiana not  
 38 more than six (6) months after the service officer's start date.

39 (d) A service officer assistant must be a resident of Indiana or  
 40 become a resident of Indiana not later than six (6) months after the  
 41 service officer assistant's start date and:

42 (1) satisfy the requirements specified in subsection (c)(1); or

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(2) be the spouse, surviving spouse, parent, or child of a person who satisfies the requirements specified in subsection (c)(1).

(e) A rule contrary to subsection (c) or (d) is void.

(f) County and city fiscal bodies may appropriate funds necessary for the purposes described in this section.

(g) Every county or city official and department of the county or city shall cooperate with the service officer and shall provide the service officer with information necessary in connection with the performance of the service officer's duties. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a county or city to share information that is otherwise considered confidential in accordance with law.

(h) After June 30, 2026, a service officer must be accredited by the department in order to provide service to veterans on behalf of the county or city.

SECTION 35. IC 10-17-1-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.61-2023, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. (a) The following employees of the Indiana department of veterans' affairs must satisfy the requirements set forth in section 5(a) of this chapter:

(1) State service officers.

(2) Director of the state approving agency.

(3) Director of the Indiana state veterans' cemetery established by IC 10-17-11-4.

(b) An employee of the Indiana department of veterans' affairs not described in subsection (a) must **be an Indiana resident who:**

(1) ~~satisfy~~; **received an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States or the national guard (as defined in IC 5-9-4-4);** or

(2) ~~be~~ **is** the spouse, surviving spouse, parent, or child of a person who satisfies the requirements set forth in ~~section 5(a) of this chapter~~. **subdivision (1).**

SECTION 36. IC 10-17-9-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 26, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. The superintendent may not appoint or employ a person in an office or a place in the Indiana Veterans' Home because of the political views or affiliation of the appointee or employee or for a reason other than capacity and fitness for the duties to be performed by the appointee or employee. However, among applicants for appointment found capable and fit, preference shall be given to a military veteran who received a discharge from military service under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~ **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**, and the spouse, widow, widower, mother, and

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child of a military veteran who received a discharge from military service under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~. **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**.

SECTION 37. IC 10-17-9-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 27, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) As used in this section, "eligible person" refers to either of the following:

(1) A member of the uniformed services who was discharged from the uniformed services under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~. **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**.

(2) The spouse or surviving spouse of a member of the uniformed services who was discharged from the uniformed services under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~. **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**.

(b) An eligible person who has a disability is eligible for admission to the home if:

(1) the eligible person is a resident of Indiana or establishes residency in Indiana not later than six (6) months after admission to the home; or

(2) in the case of an eligible person referred to in subsection (a)(1), the eligible person was a resident of Indiana when the eligible person enlisted in the uniformed services.

(c) The Indiana department of veterans' affairs shall adopt rules concerning admission to the home.

(d) In adopting rules governing the admission, maintenance, and discharge of members of the home, the Indiana department of veterans' affairs may establish a fund called the veterans' home comfort and welfare fund. The director shall deposit all money collected from the members for the cost of their care and maintenance in the fund. The director shall expend this money in any manner that adds to the comfort and welfare of the members of the institutions.

(e) A part of the veterans' home comfort and welfare fund may be withdrawn and deposited in a special fund called the veterans' home building fund. The veterans' home building fund shall be used for the construction, maintenance, remodeling, or repair of buildings of the home.

(f) Preference under this section may be given to a person who served in an Indiana military organization. Except in cases where the surviving spouse of a veteran marries another veteran, the benefits of this chapter extend only to a surviving spouse and the spouse of a veteran if the contract of marriage was entered into more than five (5) years before the date of death of the veteran. Except as otherwise

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provided by law, upon the death of a person in the home, money paid to the person or due to the person from a bank, a trust company, a corporation, or an individual becomes an asset of the person's estate and shall be distributed in the manner prescribed by the probate law of the state.

SECTION 38. IC 10-17-10-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 29, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) In order for an interested person to qualify for an allowance under this chapter:

(1) the decedent must have been an Indiana resident at the time of death and must have:

(A) received a discharge from the armed forces of the United States under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~; **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**; or

(B) died while serving in the armed forces of the United States; or

(2) the decedent must have been the spouse or surviving spouse of a person described in subdivision (1)(A) or (1)(B) and must have been an Indiana resident at the time of death.

(b) An interested person must file a claim for an allowance under this chapter with the board of commissioners in the county of residence of the decedent described in subsection (a). The claim must include:

(1) the fact of the service, death, and discharge if discharged from service before death; and

(2) that the body has been buried in a decent and respectable manner in a cemetery or burial ground or that the body has been cremated and the cremains have not been interred.

(c) The board of commissioners shall hear and determine the claim like other claims and, if the facts averred are found to be true, shall allow the claim in an amount set by ordinance. However, the amount of the allowance may not be more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

SECTION 39. IC 10-17-12-0.7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.61-2023, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 0.7. The purpose of the fund established in section 8 of this chapter is to provide short term financial assistance to ~~families of qualified service members~~; **qualifying applicants for housing, utilities, medical services, basic transportation, child care, education, employment, food, and other essential family support expenses that qualifying applicants are not otherwise able to afford.**

SECTION 40. IC 10-17-12-7.5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 7.5: As used in this chapter, "qualified service~~

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member" means an individual who is an Indiana resident and who:

- (1) is serving on active duty in:
  - (A) the armed forces of the United States; or
  - (B) the national guard (as defined in IC 5-9-4-4); or
- (2) has served in or been discharged from the armed forces of the United States or the national guard under conditions other than the following:
  - (A) Discharge by court martial;
  - (B) Acceptance of a discharge to avoid a court martial;
  - (C) Discharge for having committed any of the following:
    - (i) An offense against the security of the United States, including spying, mutiny, or treason;
    - (ii) An act of willful or persistent misconduct, including desertion;
    - (iii) A sexual or violent offense against another person, including molestation, rape, or assault;
    - (iv) An act described on the list of disallowable separation codes adopted under section 10.5 of this chapter;

SECTION 41. IC 10-17-12-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.42-2020, SECTION 13, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) The military family relief fund is established. to provide short term assistance with food, housing, utilities, medical services, basic transportation, child care, education, employment or workforce, and other essential family support expenses that have become difficult to afford for qualified service members or dependents of qualified service members.

(b) Except as provided in section 9 of this chapter, the department shall expend the money in the fund exclusively to provide grants for assistance as described in ~~subsection (a):~~ **section 0.7 of this chapter.**

(c) The department shall give priority to applications for grants for assistance from the fund to ~~qualified service members or dependents of qualified service members~~ **applicants** who have never received a grant under this chapter.

(d) Subject to the approval of the budget agency, the commission shall establish the maximum total dollar amount of grants that may be expended in a state fiscal year. Once the maximum total dollar amount of grants that may be expended in a state fiscal year is reached, no additional grants may be authorized until the start of the following state fiscal year.

(e) The director shall each year provide a report to the budget committee concerning the grant program under this chapter.

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(f) A qualified service member or the qualified service member's dependent may be eligible to receive assistance from the fund.

~~(g)~~ (f) The commission shall administer the fund.

**(g) The department shall report to the commission, at least quarterly, on the status of all applications filed during the previous quarter.**

SECTION 42. IC 10-17-12-8.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 8.1. To be eligible for a grant from the fund, an applicant must be an Indiana resident who meets at least one (1) of the following conditions:**

**(1) Is serving in:**

**(A) the armed forces of the United States; or**

**(B) the national guard (as defined in IC 5-9-4-4).**

**(2) Has served in or been discharged from the armed forces of the United States or the national guard under conditions other than the following:**

**(A) Discharge by court martial.**

**(B) Acceptance of a discharge to avoid a court martial.**

**(C) Discharge for having committed any of the following:**

**(i) An offense against the security of the United States, including spying, mutiny, or treason.**

**(ii) An act of willful or persistent misconduct, including desertion.**

**(iii) A sexual or violent offense against another person, including molestation, rape, or assault.**

**(iv) An act described on the list of disallowable separation codes adopted under section 10.5 of this chapter.**

**(3) Is the dependent of an individual described in subdivision (1) or (2).**

SECTION 43. IC 10-17-12-8.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 8.3. (a) The department shall make a comprehensive assessment of an applicant's financial condition and needs when making a determination regarding an award from the fund.**

**(b) The department shall use the most recently available poverty guidelines set forth by the United States Department of Health and Human Services in the evaluation of an applicant's financial eligibility.**



(c) The applicant's federal gross income or combined federal gross income of the applicant and the applicant's spouse shall be calculated at the time of the application and be based on the two (2) most recent consecutive pay stubs. The department shall use this calculation to annualize the applicant's and the applicant's spouse's federal gross income.

(d) An applicant may not be eligible for assistance from the fund if the applicant's federal gross income, or the combined federal gross income of the applicant and the applicant's spouse, exceeds two (2) times the poverty guideline unless the commission approves an income waiver under subsection (e).

(e) The commission may waive the income threshold if the applicant requests a waiver in writing to the commission. The applicant must provide a statement letter and supporting documentation setting forth the reasons why a waiver should be granted.

(f) The department shall consider other income or assets available to the applicant and the applicant's spouse and determine a threshold concerning the allowable amount of available assets. The asset limits shall be posted on the department's website.

SECTION 44. IC 10-17-12-8.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8.5. (a) An applicant must establish that the applicant has incurred a genuine hardship to be eligible to receive assistance from the fund. The hardship incurred by the applicant must:

- (1) directly impact the applicant's most central and basic living needs; and
- (2) not be a consequence of the applicant's own actions or choices, including discretionary expenditures on nonessential goods or services.

(b) The department shall not make an award from the fund to cover luxury, entertainment, recreational, or other nonessential expenses.

SECTION 45. IC 10-17-12-8.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8.8. (a) The department or commission may impose stipulations or conditions concerning an applicant seeking an award from the fund.

(b) If an applicant fails to satisfy any of the stipulations or conditions set forth by the department or commission, all applications submitted by the applicant shall be denied until the

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1 stipulation or condition is satisfactorily completed.

2 (c) The stipulations or conditions may include:

3 (1) meaningful engagement with the department of  
4 workforce development established by IC 22-4.1-2-1;

5 (2) completion of a financial education course provided by  
6 the department; or

7 (3) providing receipts from previous awards from the fund  
8 that evidence the award was used in accordance with the  
9 conditions or stipulations of the previous awards.

10 (d) If the department determines that the applicant made a  
11 material misrepresentation during the application process, the  
12 application shall be denied. Any future application submitted by  
13 the applicant shall be reviewed by the commission.

14 SECTION 46. IC 10-17-12-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.53-2021,  
15 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
16 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) The commission shall adopt rules under  
17 IC 4-22-2 for the provision of grants under this chapter. Subject to  
18 subsection (b), the rules adopted under this section must address the  
19 following:

20 ~~(1) Uniform need determination procedures:~~

21 ~~(2) (1) Eligibility criteria, including income eligibility standards,~~  
22 ~~asset limit eligibility standards, and other standards concerning~~  
23 ~~when assistance may be provided:~~

24 ~~(3) (2) Application procedures.~~

25 ~~(4) Selection procedures:~~

26 ~~(5) (3) A consideration of the extent to which an individual has~~  
27 ~~used assistance available from other assistance programs before~~  
28 ~~assistance may be provided to the individual from the fund.~~

29 ~~(6) (4) Other areas in which the commission determines that~~  
30 ~~rules are necessary to ensure the uniform administration of the~~  
31 ~~grant program under this chapter.~~

32 (b) The following apply to grants awarded under this chapter:

33 ~~(1) The income eligibility standards must be based on the federal~~  
34 ~~gross income of the qualified service member and the qualified~~  
35 ~~service member's spouse:~~

36 ~~(2) An employee of the department who is otherwise eligible for~~  
37 ~~a grant from the fund must submit the employee's application~~  
38 ~~directly to the commission for review. The department shall have~~  
39 ~~no influence in any part of the employee's application:~~

40 ~~(3) (1) The maximum amount a qualified service member an~~  
41 ~~individual may receive from the fund is two thousand five~~  
42 ~~hundred dollars (\$2,500), unless a higher amount is approved by~~

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the commission.

~~(4)~~ (2) The commission may consider the following in its analysis of the applicant's request for assistance in excess of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500):

(A) The department's eligibility determination of the applicant.

(B) Facts considered in the department's need determination. ~~review and award under 915 IAC 3-6-3 and 915 IAC 3-6-5.~~

(C) The circumstances surrounding the applicant's hardship, if applicable.

(D) Any substantive changes in the applicant's financial situation after the original application was submitted.

(E) Facts that may have been unknown or unavailable at the time of the applicant's original application for assistance.

(F) Other compelling circumstances that may justify assistance in excess of the two thousand five hundred dollar (\$2,500) threshold.

**(3) An employee of the department who is otherwise eligible for a grant from the fund must submit the employee's application directly to the commission for review. The department shall have no influence in any part of the employee's application.**

~~(5)~~ (4) The commission shall approve or deny within sixty (60) days an application for a grant filed with the commission after June 30, 2019, by an employee of the department. The commission shall return an incomplete application with a notation as to omissions. The return of an incomplete application shall be without prejudice.

**(5) The department may engage with the applicant's identified vendor to verify debts or estimates and effectuate payment directly to the vendor.**

SECTION 47. IC 10-17-12-12, AS AMENDED BY THE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. The director shall establish the capability to receive donations to the fund from the public on the department's ~~Internet site.~~ **website.**

SECTION 48. IC 10-17-12-14, AS ADDED BY P.L.132-2019, SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. **(a)** Except as provided in section 15 of this chapter, the department shall approve or deny an application for a grant



1 filed with the department ~~after June 30, 2019~~; within sixty (60) days.

2 **(b) The department shall notify the applicant by mail or**  
 3 **electronic mail within seven (7) days after a determination is made**  
 4 **concerning the applicant's application.**

5 SECTION 49. IC 10-17-12-16 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 6 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 7 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 16. (a) An applicant whose**  
 8 **request for short term financial assistance from the fund is denied**  
 9 **may appeal the determination by submitting an appeal letter to the**  
 10 **department.**

11 **(b) An applicant has thirty (30) days from the date of the**  
 12 **postmark of the determination letter to appeal the decision.**

13 **(c) The appeal shall be conducted in accordance with**  
 14 **IC 4-21.5-3.**

15 SECTION 50. IC 10-17-13-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.7-2014,  
 16 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 17 JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 10. (a) The commission shall manage and develop**  
 18 **the fund and the assets of the fund.**

19 **(b) The commission shall do the following:**

20 **(1) Carry out the duties of the commission set forth in**  
 21 **IC 10-17-1.**

22 **(2) Establish written guidelines that specify the criteria for**  
 23 **determining priority of applications for the purpose of providing**  
 24 **financial assistance to ~~qualified service members or dependents~~**  
 25 **of ~~qualified service members~~ applicants as described under**  
 26 **IC 10-17-12-8(c).**

27 **(3) Establish a policy to determine annually the maximum total**  
 28 **dollar amount that may be expended for each state fiscal year**  
 29 **from the military family relief fund established by**  
 30 **IC 10-17-12-8.**

31 **(4) Establish a policy for the investment of the assets of the fund.**  
 32 **In establishing a policy under this subdivision, the commission**  
 33 **shall:**

34 **(A) establish adequate long term financial goals for the**  
 35 **fund; and**

36 **(B) provide adequate funding for the military family relief**  
 37 **fund established by IC 10-17-12-8.**

38 **(5) Acquire money for the fund through the solicitation of**  
 39 **private or public donations and other revenue producing**  
 40 **activities.**

41 **(6) Perform other tasks consistent with prudent management and**  
 42 **development of the fund.**

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1 SECTION 51. IC 10-17-13.5-3, AS AMENDED BY  
 2 P.L.238-2025, SECTION 36, IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 3 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. As used in this  
 4 chapter, "veteran" means an individual residing in Indiana who:

5 (1) has served in any branch of the armed forces of the United  
 6 States or their reserves, in the national guard, or in the Indiana  
 7 National Guard; and

8 (2) received a discharge from military service under conditions  
 9 other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2).~~

10 **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2).**

11 SECTION 52. IC 10-18-1-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.149-2016,  
 12 SECTION 39, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 13 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) The Indiana war memorials commission is  
 14 established.

15 (b) The commission consists of nine (9) members. Each Indiana  
 16 congressional district must be represented by at least one (1) member  
 17 who is:

18 (1) a resident of that congressional district;

19 (2) a veteran of service in the armed forces of the United States  
 20 of America in time of war;

21 (3) a citizen of Indiana at the time of the service; and

22 (4) appointed:

23 (A) in the manner;

24 (B) for the terms;

25 (C) to have the powers; and

26 (D) to perform the duties;

27 as provided in this chapter.

28 (c) The commission:

29 (1) as the commission and in the commission's name, may  
 30 prosecute and defend suits; and

31 (2) has all other duties, rights, and powers that are:

32 (A) necessary to implement this chapter; and

33 (B) not inconsistent with this chapter.

34 (d) The members of the commission are not liable in their  
 35 individual capacity, except to the state, for any act done or omitted in  
 36 connection with the performance of their duties under this chapter.

37 (e) A suit against the commission must be brought in a court with  
 38 jurisdiction in Marion County. Notice or summons of the suit shall be  
 39 served upon the president, vice president, or secretary of the  
 40 commission. In a suit against the commission, it is not necessary to  
 41 name the individual members of the commission as either plaintiff or  
 42 defendant. Commission members may sue and be sued in the name of

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the Indiana war memorials commission.

(f) The commission shall

(1) report to the governor **in a manner prescribed by the governor, through the adjutant general; and**

(2) be under the adjutant general for administrative supervision.

SECTION 53. IC 14-15-2-4 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 4: (a) This section does not apply to a motorboat competing in and during a motorboat race for which a permit has been issued by the department.

(b) A person may not operate a motorboat on Indiana water unless the boat motor is equipped with:

(1) a muffler;

(2) an underwater exhaust; or

(3) other device;

that muffles or suppresses the sound of the exhaust.

SECTION 54. IC 14-15-2-5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. Sec. 5: (a) This section does not apply to a motorboat competing in and during a motorboat race for which a permit has been issued by the department.

(b) A person may not operate a motorboat on Indiana water if the boat motor is equipped with any of the following:

(1) A muffler cutout.

(2) A bypass.

(3) Any device similar to a muffler cutout or bypass.

SECTION 55. IC 14-15-2-13 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13. (a) **Except as provided in subsection (c), this section applies to sailing vessels at least seven (7) meters in length. the following:**

(1) Nonpowered boats including canoes and kayaks.

(2) Sailboats not more than twenty-two (22) feet in length under sail alone.

(3) Boats powered only by electric motor on lakes restricted to propulsion solely by oars, paddles, or electric motors.

(4) Any boat using an electric motor for positioning purposes only.

(b) A boat sailing vessel described under subsection (a) must be equipped with **lights as required by 33 CFR 83.25. a hand portable lantern or flashlight not affixed or attached to any part of the boat and capable of throwing a white light visible for a distance of at least two (2) miles. The operator of the boat shall display the same or the white light aft, if available, in sufficient time to avoid a collision with any other boat that is being operated in accordance with this article.**

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1 (c) A sailing vessel:

2 (1) less than seven (7) meters in length; or

3 (2) powered by oars;

4 may be equipped with lights as permitted under 33 CFR 83.25.

5 SECTION 56. IC 14-15-2-13.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
6 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
7 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13.5. As required by the United  
8 States Coast Guard under 46 U.S.C. 4312, a vessel must be  
9 equipped with an engine cut-off switch.

10 SECTION 57. IC 14-15-3-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.69-2009,  
11 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
12 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. A person operating a boat shall observe the  
13 following all traffic rules under 33 CFR 83, if applicable. when  
14 applicable:

15 (1) When two (2) boats are approaching each other "head and  
16 head", or nearly so, each boat shall bear to the right and pass the  
17 other boat on the boat's left side.

18 (2) When two (2) boats are approaching each other obliquely or  
19 at right angles, the boat on the right has the right-of-way.  
20 However, when:

21 (A) one (1) boat is under sail or is nonmotorized, the  
22 sailboat or nonmotorized boat has the right-of-way; and

23 (B) two (2) boats are under sail or are nonmotorized, the  
24 boat on the right has the right-of-way.

25 (3) A boat operated on a river or a channel shall bear to the right.

26 (4) A boat may overtake and pass another boat on either side if  
27 the passing can be done with safety and within the assured clear  
28 distance ahead, but the boat overtaken has the right-of-way.

29 (5) A boat leaving a dock, a pier, a wharf, or the shore has the  
30 right-of-way over all boats approaching the dock, pier, wharf, or  
31 shore.

32 SECTION 58. IC 14-15-2-15, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2022,  
33 SECTION 21, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
34 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. (a) A person who violates section 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,  
35 6, 7(b), 9, 10, or 13 of this chapter commits a Class C infraction.

36 (b) A person who violates section 7(c) or 8 of this chapter commits  
37 a Class A infraction. Notwithstanding IC 34-28-5-4(a), a judgment of  
38 at least one thousand dollars (\$1,000) shall be imposed for each Class  
39 A infraction committed in violation of section 7(c) or 8 of this chapter.

40 SECTION 59. IC 16-33-4-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025,  
41 SECTION 52, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
42 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the

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superintendent of the home shall be appointed in the manner prescribed by law and must meet all of the following conditions:

- (1) Be a teacher licensed by the state or have at least a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in a field related to education or child growth and development.
- (2) Have experience working with children.
- (3) At the time of appointment, be a resident and citizen of Indiana.
- (4) Have other qualifications as required by the state health commissioner.

(b) When at least two (2) candidates meet the conditions listed in subsection (a), the state health commissioner shall give preference to individuals who have been discharged from the armed forces of the United States under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~ **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)** in appointing a candidate to the position of superintendent of the home.

SECTION 60. IC 20-20-7-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 54, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "eligible veteran" refers to an individual who has the following qualifications:

- (1) Served as a member of the armed forces of the United States at any time during at least one (1) of the following periods:
  - (A) Beginning April 6, 1917, and ending November 11, 1918 (World War I).
  - (B) Beginning December 7, 1941, and ending December 31, 1946 (World War II).
  - (C) Beginning June 27, 1950, and ending January 31, 1955 (Korean Conflict).
  - (D) Beginning August 5, 1964, and ending May 7, 1975 (Vietnam Conflict).
- (2) Before the military service described in subdivision (1):
  - (A) attended a public or nonpublic high school in Indiana; and
  - (B) was a student in good standing at the high school described in clause (A), to the satisfaction of the department of veterans' affairs.
- (3) Did not graduate or receive a diploma because of leaving the high school described in subdivision (2) for the military service described in subdivision (1).
- (4) Was discharged from the armed forces of the United States under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~ **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**.

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SECTION 61. IC 20-20-7-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025,  
SECTION 55, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) The department and the department of  
veterans' affairs shall jointly design a form for the application for  
issuance of a diploma under the program.

(b) The application form must require at least the following  
information about an eligible veteran:

(1) Personal identification information.

(2) Military service information, including a copy of the eligible  
veteran's discharge from military service under conditions other  
than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~.  
**IC 10-17-12-8.1(2).**

(3) High school information, including the following:

(A) Name and address, including county, of the last high  
school attended.

(B) Whether the high school was a public or nonpublic  
school.

(C) Years attended.

(D) Year of leaving high school to begin military service.

(E) Year in which the veteran would have graduated if the  
veteran had not left high school to begin military service.

(4) If the high school attended was a public school, whether the  
veteran prefers receiving a diploma issued by:

(A) the state board; or

(B) the governing body of the school corporation governing  
the high school.

SECTION 62. IC 21-12-13-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.11-2023,  
SECTION 71, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) This section applies to the following  
scholarship and fee remission statutes:

(1) IC 21-12-3.

(2) IC 21-12-4.

(3) IC 21-12-6.

(4) IC 21-13-2.

(5) IC 21-13-7.

(6) IC 21-13-8.

(7) IC 21-13-4.

(8) IC 21-14-5.

(9) IC 21-12-16.

(b) **This subsection does not apply to a grant or reduction in  
fees under IC 21-13-4.** Except as provided in subsection ~~(e)~~, **(d)**, and  
except for a scholarship granted under IC 21-13-8 to an individual



described in IC 21-13-8-1(b)(2)(B), a grant or reduction in tuition or fees, including all renewals and extensions, under any of the laws listed in subsection (a) may not exceed the number of terms that constitutes ~~(1) except as provided in subdivision (2);~~ four (4) undergraduate academic years, as determined by the commission, ~~or~~ ~~(2) for purposes of IC 21-13-4, six (6) academic years as determined by the commission;~~

and must be used within eight (8) years after the date the individual first applies and becomes eligible for benefits under the applicable law.

**(c) A grant or reduction in tuition or fees, including all renewals and extensions, under IC 21-13-4 may not exceed the number of terms that constitutes six (6) academic years as determined by the commission.**

~~(c)~~ **(d)** The commission may, subject to the availability of funds, extend eligibility under subsection (b) for a recipient who used a grant or reduction in tuition or fees under any of the statutes listed in subsection (a) at a postsecondary educational institution that closed. The extension of eligibility may not exceed the number of terms used by the recipient at the postsecondary educational institution that closed.

SECTION 63. IC 22-4.1-4-3.3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 61, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.3. (a) As used in this section, "veteran" means:

- (1) a Hoosier veteran (as defined in IC 1-1-4-5(b)); or
- (2) an individual who satisfies the following:

(A) The individual is a resident of Indiana.

(B) The individual has previously served ~~on active duty~~ in any branch of the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, in the National Guard, or in the Indiana National Guard.

(C) The individual received a discharge from service under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2); IC 10-17-12-8.1(2).~~

(b) Unless otherwise provided by federal law, the department shall give a veteran or the spouse of a veteran priority for placement in any federal or state employment or training program administered by the department if the veteran or the veteran's spouse:

- (1) submits documentation satisfactory to the department establishing the veteran's honorable discharge from service; and
- (2) meets the eligibility requirements for the program.

SECTION 64. IC 25-8-12.1-12, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 75, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. A person who:



1 (1) enters active military service of the United States or of this  
 2 state:  
 3 (A) in time of war or an emergency;  
 4 (B) for or during a period of training; or  
 5 (C) in connection with or under the operation of a system of  
 6 selective service; and  
 7 (2) at the time of entry holds a valid license as a registered  
 8 barber;  
 9 shall be granted a similar certificate of registration or license upon  
 10 presenting to the board a discharge from military service under  
 11 conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2);~~  
 12 **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**, dated not more than six (6) months before the time  
 13 of the presentation. The similar certificate or license shall be granted  
 14 by the board upon payment of a fee established by the board.  
 15 SECTION 65. IC 25-10-1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025,  
 16 SECTION 76, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 17 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. Any applicant for a license to practice  
 18 chiropractic who is a graduate of a legally incorporated chiropractic  
 19 school, institution or college, and who can produce satisfactory  
 20 evidence to the board that the:  
 21 (1) applicant's chiropractic education was interrupted by reason  
 22 of the applicant's induction or enlistment into the active armed  
 23 forces of the United States; and  
 24 (2) applicant received a discharge from the armed forces under  
 25 conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2);~~  
 26 **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**;  
 27 is entitled to have the applicant's date of graduation determined as if  
 28 the applicant had completed the applicant's course of study in  
 29 chiropractic without the interruption.  
 30 SECTION 66. IC 25-25-2-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025,  
 31 SECTION 77, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 32 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) This section applies to:  
 33 (1) any veteran described in IC 10-17-5-2 or IC 10-17-5-1  
 34 (before their repeal); or  
 35 (2) any other veteran to whom this chapter applies because of the  
 36 provisions of any other statute;  
 37 who received a discharge from military service under conditions other  
 38 than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~ **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**  
 39 from such service issued by the proper authorities. Such a person shall  
 40 be entitled to a license to vend, hawk, and peddle goods, wares, fruits,  
 41 and merchandise in any county, city, or town in Indiana without the  
 42 payment of any fee for the license. Upon the presentation of the

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person's certificate and papers of discharge, properly executed, to the auditor of any county and proving the person's identity as the person named in the person's certificate of discharge, the auditor shall issue to the former soldier or sailor a free license to vend, hawk, and peddle goods, wares, fruits, and merchandise in the county and in all cities and towns in the county. A fee may not be charged to the holder of the license by the auditor, by the authorities of any city or town in the county, or by any other officer. The license shall be full and complete authority to vend, hawk, and peddle without the payment of any sum of money.

(b) A person who acquires a license under this section is subject to all county, city, or town regulations and ordinances concerning vendors, hawkers, or peddlers, except for those provisions requiring payment of money for obtaining a license.

SECTION 67. IC 25-37-1-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 79, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) This section applies to a county having a consolidated city.

(b) A veteran who received a discharge from the armed forces of the United States under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~ **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)** is exempt from the payment of a fee for a transient merchant license issued under this chapter by a municipality located wholly or partially within the county.

(c) Upon the presentation of the veteran's certificate and papers of discharge and proof of the veteran's identity, the official designated by the municipality shall issue a transient merchant license to the veteran. A person licensed under this section shall comply with all ordinances of the county or municipality governing transient merchants.

SECTION 68. IC 34-13-3-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 182, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) A governmental entity or an employee acting within the scope of the employee's employment is not liable if a loss results from the following:

- (1) The natural condition of unimproved property.
- (2) The condition of a reservoir, dam, canal, conduit, drain, or similar structure when used by a person for a purpose that is not foreseeable.
- (3) The temporary condition of a public thoroughfare or extreme sport area that results from weather.
- (4) The condition of an unpaved road, trail, or footpath, the purpose of which is to provide access to a recreation or scenic area.

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(5) The design, construction, control, operation, or normal condition of an extreme sport area, if all entrances to the extreme sport area are marked with:

(A) a set of rules governing the use of the extreme sport area;

(B) a warning concerning the hazards and dangers associated with the use of the extreme sport area; and

(C) a statement that the extreme sport area may be used only by persons operating extreme sport equipment.

This subdivision shall not be construed to relieve a governmental entity from liability for the continuing duty to maintain extreme sports areas in a reasonably safe condition.

(6) The initiation of a judicial or an administrative proceeding.

(7) The performance of a discretionary function; however, the provision of medical or optical care as provided in IC 34-6-2.1-54 shall be considered as a ministerial act.

(8) The adoption and enforcement of or failure to adopt or enforce:

(A) a law (including rules and regulations); or

(B) in the case of a public school or charter school, a policy; unless the act of enforcement constitutes false arrest or false imprisonment.

(9) An act or omission performed in good faith and without malice under the apparent authority of a statute which is invalid if the employee would not have been liable had the statute been valid.

(10) The act or omission of anyone other than the governmental entity or the governmental entity's employee.

(11) The issuance, denial, suspension, or revocation of, or failure or refusal to issue, deny, suspend, or revoke any permit, license, certificate, approval, order, or similar authorization, where the authority is discretionary under the law.

(12) Failure to make an inspection, or making an inadequate or negligent inspection, of any property, other than the property of a governmental entity, to determine whether the property complied with or violates any law or contains a hazard to health or safety.

(13) Entry upon any property where the entry is expressly or impliedly authorized by law.

(14) Misrepresentation if unintentional.

(15) Theft by another person of money in the employee's official custody, unless the loss was sustained because of the employee's

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own negligent or wrongful act or omission.

(16) Injury to the property of a person under the jurisdiction and control of the department of correction if the person has not exhausted the administrative remedies and procedures provided by section 7 of this chapter.

(17) Injury to the person or property of a person under supervision of a governmental entity and who is:

(A) on probation;

(B) assigned to an alcohol and drug services program under IC 12-23, a minimum security release program under IC 11-10-8, a pretrial conditional release program under IC 35-33-8, or a community corrections program under IC 11-12; or

(C) subject to a court order requiring the person to be escorted by a county police officer while on or in a government building (as defined in IC 36-9-13-3) owned by a county building authority under IC 36-9-13, unless the injury is the result of an act or omission amounting to:

(i) gross negligence;

(ii) willful or wanton misconduct; or

(iii) intentional misconduct.

(18) Design of a highway (as defined in IC 9-13-2-73), toll road project (as defined in IC 8-15-2-4(4)), tollway (as defined in IC 8-15-3-7), or project (as defined in IC 8-15.7-2-14) if the claimed loss occurs at least twenty (20) years after the public highway, toll road project, tollway, or project was designed or substantially redesigned; except that this subdivision shall not be construed to relieve a responsible governmental entity from the continuing duty to provide and maintain public highways in a reasonably safe condition.

(19) Development, adoption, implementation, operation, maintenance, or use of an enhanced emergency communication system.

(20) Injury to a student or a student's property by an employee of a school corporation if the employee is acting reasonably under a:

(A) discipline policy adopted under IC 20-33-8-12; or

(B) restraint and seclusion plan adopted under IC 20-20-40-14.

(21) An act or omission performed in good faith under the apparent authority of a court order described in IC 35-46-1-15.1 or IC 35-46-1-15.3 that is invalid, including an arrest or

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imprisonment related to the enforcement of the court order, if the governmental entity or employee would not have been liable had the court order been valid.

(22) An act taken to investigate or remediate hazardous substances, petroleum, or other pollutants associated with a brownfield (as defined in IC 13-11-2-19.3) unless:

(A) the loss is a result of reckless conduct; or

(B) the governmental entity was responsible for the initial placement of the hazardous substances, petroleum, or other pollutants on the brownfield.

(23) The operation of an off-road vehicle (as defined in IC 14-8-2-185) by a nongovernmental employee, or by a governmental employee not acting within the scope of the employment of the employee, on a public highway in a county road system outside the corporate limits of a city or town, unless the loss is the result of an act or omission amounting to:

(A) gross negligence;

(B) willful or wanton misconduct; or

(C) intentional misconduct.

This subdivision shall not be construed to relieve a governmental entity from liability for the continuing duty to maintain highways in a reasonably safe condition for the operation of motor vehicles licensed by the bureau of motor vehicles for operation on public highways.

(24) Any act or omission rendered in connection with a request, investigation, assessment, or opinion provided under IC 36-9-28.7.

**(25) Any act or omission rendered in connection with an Indiana civilian cyber corps program deployment as provided under IC 10-16-22.**

(b) This subsection applies to a cause of action that accrues during a period of a state disaster emergency declared under IC 10-14-3-12 to respond to COVID-19, if the state of disaster emergency was declared after February 29, 2020, and before April 1, 2022. A governmental entity or an employee acting within the scope of the employee's employment is not liable for an act or omission arising from COVID-19 unless the act or omission constitutes gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or intentional misrepresentation. If a claim described in this subsection is:

(1) a claim for injury or death resulting from medical malpractice; and

(2) not barred by the immunity provided under this subsection;

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the claimant is required to comply with all of the provisions of IC 34-18 (medical malpractice act).

SECTION 69. IC 34-30-2.1-125.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 125.2. IC 10-16-22-3 (Concerning Indiana civilian cyber corps volunteers or civilian cyber corps advisers).**

SECTION 70. IC 34-30-2.1-125.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 125.3. IC 10-16-22-4 (Concerning Indiana civilian cyber corps volunteers or civilian cyber corps advisers).**

SECTION 71. IC 34-30-8-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. If a person or entity, other than a person or entity listed in subdivisions (1) through (10), enters into a written agreement to use space in an armory for a function, the following persons and entities are not liable for civil damages for any property damage or bodily injury resulting from the serving of food or beverages at the function held at the armory:

- (1) The state.
- (2) The Indiana army national guard.
- (3) The Indiana air national guard.
- (4) The army national guard of the United States.
- (5) The air national guard of the United States.
- (6) The adjutant general appointed under IC 10-16-2-6.
- (7) The ~~assistant adjutants general~~ **additional general officers** appointed under IC 10-16-2-7.
- (8) The officers and enlisted members of the Indiana army national guard and the Indiana air national guard.
- (9) The state armory board appointed under IC 10-16-3-1 and the members of that board.
- (10) The local armory board appointed under IC 10-16-4-1 for the armory and the members of that board.

SECTION 72. IC 36-8-4-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 92, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) Subject to subsection (c), the board or persons having the authority to employ members of the fire or police department shall give a preference for employment according to the following priority:

- (1) A war veteran who has been discharged from the armed forces of the United States under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~. **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2).**

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- 1 (2) A person whose mother or father was a:
  - 2 (A) firefighter of a unit;
  - 3 (B) municipal police officer; or
  - 4 (C) county police officer;
- 5 who died in the line of duty (as defined in IC 5-10-10-2).
- 6 (b) Subject to subsection (c), the board or person having the
- 7 authority to employ members of a fire or police department may give
- 8 a preference for employment to any of the following:
  - 9 (1) A police officer or firefighter laid off by another city under
  - 10 section 11 of this chapter.
  - 11 (2) A county police officer laid off by a sheriff's department
  - 12 under IC 36-8-10-11.1.
  - 13 (3) A person who:
    - 14 (A) was employed full-time or part-time by a township to
    - 15 provide fire protection and emergency services; and
    - 16 (B) has been laid off by the township.
- 17 (c) A person described in subsection (a) or (b) may not receive a
- 18 preference for employment unless the person:
  - 19 (1) applies; and
  - 20 (2) meets all employment requirements prescribed:
    - 21 (A) by law, including physical and age requirements; and
    - 22 (B) by the fire or police department.
- 23 SECTION 73. IC 36-8-4.7-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025,
- 24 SECTION 94, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 25 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) Notwithstanding any contrary law, an
- 26 appointing authority shall waive any age restriction for a person not
- 27 more than forty (40) years and six (6) months of age that applies to the
- 28 appointment and hiring of an individual as:
  - 29 (1) a member of the police department; or
  - 30 (2) a member of the fire department;
- 31 if the individual meets the requirements of subsection (b).
- 32 (b) An individual who meets all the following requirements is
- 33 entitled to the waiver described in subsection (a):
  - 34 (1) On the date the individual applies to be appointed and hired
  - 35 as:
    - 36 (A) a member of the police department; or
    - 37 (B) a member of the fire department;
  - 38 the individual is a veteran who has completed at least twenty
  - 39 (20) years of military service.
  - 40 (2) The individual received or is eligible to receive a discharge
  - 41 from the armed forces of the United States under conditions
  - 42 other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~.

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1 **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2).**

2 (3) The individual meets all other requirements for appointment  
3 and hiring as:

4 (A) a member of the police department; or

5 (B) a member of the fire department;

6 including all physical requirements.

7 (c) An individual who is entitled to the waiver described in  
8 subsection (a) is eligible to become a member of the 1977 fund.

9 SECTION 74. IC 36-8-5-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025,  
10 SECTION 95, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
11 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) A police officer or firefighter desiring to  
12 return to service in the police or fire department shall report to the  
13 person responsible for regulating and employing members of the  
14 department. This action must be taken within sixty (60) days after a  
15 discharge under conditions other than conditions set forth in  
16 ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~ **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)** from military service or  
17 government war work.

18 (b) Within fifteen (15) days after the police officer or firefighter  
19 reports to the department, the police officer or firefighter shall be  
20 placed on duty at the rank held at the time of entering military service  
21 or government war work.

22 (c) If a member of the police or fire department is refused a proper  
23 assignment under subsection (b), the member of the police or fire  
24 department may file an action in the circuit court, superior court, or  
25 probate court of the county in the manner prescribed by IC 36-8-3-4.

26 SECTION 75. IC 36-8-10-10.4, AS AMENDED BY  
27 P.L.238-2025, SECTION 96, IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
28 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10.4. (a) Subject to  
29 subsection (c), the board shall give a preference for employment  
30 according to the following priority:

31 (1) A war veteran who has been discharged from the armed  
32 forces of the United States under conditions other than  
33 conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~ **IC 10-17-12-8.1(2)**.

34 (2) A person whose mother or father was a:

35 (A) firefighter of a unit;

36 (B) municipal police officer; or

37 (C) county police officer;

38 who died in the line of duty (as defined in IC 5-10-10-2).

39 (b) Subject to subsection (c), the board may give a preference for  
40 employment to any of the following:

41 (1) A member of another department laid off under section 11.1  
42 of this chapter.

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(2) A police officer laid off by a city under IC 36-8-4-11.  
 (c) A person described in subsection (a) or (b) may not receive a preference for employment unless the person:

(1) applies; and

(2) meets all employment requirements prescribed:

(A) by law, including physical and age requirements; and

(B) by the department.

SECTION 76. IC 36-8-13-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.238-2025, SECTION 102, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) The executive of a township, with the approval of the legislative body, may do the following:

(1) Purchase firefighting and emergency services apparatus and equipment for the township, provide for the housing, care, maintenance, operation, and use of the apparatus and equipment to provide services within the township but outside the corporate boundaries of municipalities, and employ full-time or part-time personnel to operate the apparatus and equipment and to provide services in that area. Preference in employment under this section shall be given according to the following priority:

(A) A war veteran who has been discharged from the armed forces of the United States under conditions other than conditions set forth in ~~IC 10-17-12-7.5(2)~~.  
**IC 10-17-12-8.1(2).**

(B) A person whose mother or father was a:

(i) firefighter of a unit;

(ii) municipal police officer; or

(iii) county police officer;

who died in the line of duty (as defined in IC 5-10-10-2).

The executive of a township may give a preference for employment under this section to a person who was employed full-time or part-time by another township to provide fire protection and emergency services and has been laid off by the township. The executive of a township may also give a preference for employment to a firefighter laid off by a city under IC 36-8-4-11. A person described in this subdivision may not receive a preference for employment unless the person applies for employment and meets all employment requirements prescribed by law, including physical and age requirements, and all employment requirements prescribed by the fire department.

(2) Contract with a municipality in the township or in a contiguous township that maintains adequate firefighting or emergency services apparatus and equipment to provide fire



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1 protection or emergency services for the township in accordance  
2 with IC 36-1-7.

3 (3) Cooperate with a municipality in the township or in a  
4 contiguous township in the purchase, maintenance, and upkeep  
5 of firefighting or emergency services apparatus and equipment  
6 for use in the municipality and township in accordance with  
7 IC 36-1-7.

8 (4) Contract with a volunteer fire department that has been  
9 organized to fight fires in the township for the use and operation  
10 of firefighting apparatus and equipment that has been purchased  
11 by the township in order to save the private and public property  
12 of the township from destruction by fire, including use of the  
13 apparatus and equipment in an adjoining township by the  
14 department if the department has made a contract with the  
15 executive of the adjoining township for the furnishing of  
16 firefighting service within the township.

17 (5) Contract with a volunteer fire department that maintains  
18 adequate firefighting service in accordance with IC 36-8-12.

19 (6) Use money in the township's rainy day fund to pay costs  
20 attributable to providing fire protection or emergency services  
21 under this chapter.

22 (b) This subsection applies only to townships that provide fire  
23 protection or emergency services or both under subsection (a)(1) and  
24 to municipalities that have some part of the municipal territory within  
25 a township and do not have a full-time paid fire department. A  
26 township may provide fire protection or emergency services or both  
27 without contracts inside the corporate boundaries of the municipalities  
28 if before July 1 of a year the following occur:

29 (1) The legislative body of the municipality adopts an ordinance  
30 to have the township provide the services without a contract.

31 (2) The township legislative body passes a resolution approving  
32 the township's provision of the services without contracts to the  
33 municipality.

34 In a township providing services to a municipality under this section,  
35 the legislative body of either the township or a municipality in the  
36 township may opt out of participation under this subsection by adopting  
37 an ordinance or a resolution, respectively, before July 1 of a year.

38 (c) This subsection applies only to a township that:

39 (1) is located in a county containing a consolidated city;

40 (2) has at least three (3) included towns (as defined in  
41 IC 36-3-1-7) that have all municipal territory completely within  
42 the township on January 1, 1996; and



1 (3) provides fire protection or emergency services, or both, under  
2 subsection (a)(1);  
3 and to included towns (as defined in IC 36-3-1-7) that have all the  
4 included town's municipal territory completely within the township. A  
5 township may provide fire protection or emergency services, or both,  
6 without contracts inside the corporate boundaries of the municipalities  
7 if before August 1 of the year preceding the first calendar year to which  
8 this subsection applies the township legislative body passes a  
9 resolution approving the township's provision of the services without  
10 contracts to the municipality. The resolution must identify the included  
11 towns to which the resolution applies. In a township providing services  
12 to a municipality under this section, the legislative body of the  
13 township may opt out of participation under this subsection by adopting  
14 a resolution before July 1 of a year. A copy of a resolution adopted  
15 under this subsection shall be submitted to the executive of each  
16 included town covered by the resolution, the county auditor, and the  
17 department of local government finance.

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